

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /069 W

----- 015265

R 271204Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2520

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4905

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, NO

SUBJECT: TAIWAN OPERA COMPANY APPEARANCE BRINGS PRC PROTEST,  
MAY CAUSE VISA ISSUANCE PROCEDURE CHANGE

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 3128; (B) VIENNA 8006

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE TAIWAN  
OPERA LAST WEEK ONLY TO HAVE LEFTIST STUDENTS LOCK THE  
HALL AND PREVENT THE FIRST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE. POLICE MANAGED  
TO SWEEP STUDENTS AWAY TO PERMIT THE OPERA TO GO ON THE SECOND  
NIGHT. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PRC EMBASSY IN OSLO PROTESTED TO  
THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON THE VISIT, WHILE CONSERVATIVE SPOKESMAN  
ROSE TO PROTEST STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT  
DURING THE WEEK THAT THE INCIDENT MAY MAKE IT NECESSARY TO CHANGE  
VISA PROCESSING REGULATIONS FOR GROUPS FROM TAIWAN. END SUMMARY  
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1. THE VISIT OF THE TAIWAN OPERA TO OSLO SEPT 21-22 BLEW UP A STORM OF PROTEST AND HAS GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT CAUSE TO REVIEW ITS VISA AUTHORIZATIONS FOR GROUPS FROM TAIWAN. LEFTISTS STUDENTS, SUPPORTED BY THE NORWEGIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION LED BY CHAIRMAN TARALD ROHDE, WAVED PLACARDS CALLING FOR "REMOVAL OF TAIWANESE FASCISTS FROM NORWAY" AND LOCKED THEMSELVES IN STUDENT CLUB CHATEAU NEUF, PREVENTING SEVERAL HUNDRED GUESTS AND THE OPERA PERFORMERS FROM ENTERING. THE NEXT NIGHT POLICE WERE ABLE TO SWEEP THE PROTESTERS OUT AND HAULED SOME OFF TO JAIL BEFORE THE OPERA GROUP COULD APPEAR. THE CANCELLATION RESULTED IN A SERIOUS FINANCIAL LOSS FOR THE NEAR BANKRUPT STUDENT CLUB.

2. MEANWHILE, THE PRC EMBASSY IN OSLO EXPRESSED STRONG DISAPPROVAL TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE TAIWANESE TROOP WAS ALLOWED TO PERFORM.

3. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE INCIDENT FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKESMAN EGIL HELLE SAID IT HAS RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE NEED TO CHANGE VISA PROCESSING RULES FOR VISITING TAIWANESE SO THAT GROUP APPLICATIONS WILL BE REFERRED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.

4. THE INCIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT STIRRED OTHER VOICES TO SUPPORT THE OPERA'S APPEARANCE AND THE RIGHT OF ARTISTS TO PERFORM IN NORWAY. CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT PAUL THYNESS CALLED THE STUDENT ACTION MOB BEHAVIOR BY POLITICAL EXTREMISTS AND SAID HE BELIEVED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S REVIEW OF VISA REGULATIONS WILL CONFIRM THE WISDOM OF CONTINUING THE PRACTICES CURRENTLY USED.

END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

5. THE VISIT'S DOMESTIC REPERCUSSIONS AND PROBLEMS CREATED WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS, MAY WELL LEAD TO A MORE CAREFUL REVIEW OF GROUP VISA REQUESTS BY MFA AND MORE RESTRICTIVE NORWEGIAN ATTITUDE TO VISITING ROC GROUPS. MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR VIBE INFORMED DCM HE THOUGHT THAT GON WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO ADOPT POLICY SIMILAR TO THAT DENMARK AND OTHER EC COUNTRIES EMPLOY WHEREBY VISAS ARE REFUSED TO GROUPS, SUCH AS TAIWANESE OPERA, WHICH GOVERNMENT FEELS ARE TRAVELING TO NORWAY FOR POLITICAL

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PURPOSES. APPARENTLY, THE GROUP WAS ONLY ALLOWED TO ENTER NORWAY AND FINLAND AMONG THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES. AT PRESENT GON CONSULATE IN HONG KONG HAS GENERAL GUIDANCE ON ISSUING VISAS TO TRAVELERS FROM ROC, AND HAS NOT HAD STANDING GUIDANCE TO REFER GROUP REQUESTS TO OSLO. SUCH GUIDANCE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE RESULT TO LATEST VISIT.

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ANDERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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